

the automation part, not the intake part, not the sensitivity part, and not to, overall, castigate the thousands of State employees who over the years have been particularly sensitive to the intake process, asking the hard questions and trying to find solutions to those who have problems and who need welfare.

Finding out eligibility is not only in numbers and statistics, it is funding out the problems, the source of the need, why this person is in your office, who else can help them, why do they need to be on welfare. Maybe they only need to be on for a short period of time. A machine and a private company with an incentive for profit only cannot make this system work.

There may be some effort this week to add to the supplemental appropriations bill an amendment to approve this privatized system under the Texas welfare reform package. This should not be approved, for we should have a vigorous debate on the best way to provide efficient, safe, and productive services to the least of those who are in need in our country. Welfare reform, yes, but a totally incentive-based program profit-motivated, to the detriment of women and children and the elderly who need our care and consideration, that is absolutely wrong.

I would hope, first of all, that my colleagues will vote against any amendment that would offer to approve this system, and I would ask the President to disallow this particular provision, for it does not answer the question of efficiency in automation, but it really responds to the question of profit and profit incentive, and it eliminates, as I said, thousands of very valuable State employees who are trained professionally to answer these questions and concerns of the most needy.

We can have welfare reform. Let welfare reform be the kind of welfare reform that responds to the needs of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING FORT BENNING FOR BEING NAMED 1997 ARMY COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fort Benning, GA, the "home of the infantry" and the Army's premier installation, for being named a 1997 community of excellence.

On May 2, Fort Benning was awarded the Commander in Chief's Award for the third time in the last 4 years. This award is given annually to recognize the best Army installation in the world. Additionally, on May 1 Fort Benning was awarded the Chief of Staff Army Award for the fifth consecutive year. This award recognizes the best Army installation in the Continental United States. Fort Benning is also the

sole nominee of the 1997 Presidential Award for Quality as the Best Agency in the Federal Government.

These awards are indicative of both the ability and professionalism of the tens of thousands of soldiers that pass through Fort Benning's gate each and every year, and of the successful partnership that has been developed over the years between Fort Benning and the Columbus, GA, and Phenix City, AL, districts.

No military facility can be fully effective without developing a positive relationship with the local community. Fort Benning has accomplished this, and has developed a military-civilian team that is unmatched in efficiency and effectiveness.

In spite of the fact that the military population of Fort Benning is in a continuous state of transition, the installation has been able to maintain its high standards of quality. This is, in large part, thanks to nearly 7,000 civilians who work behind the scenes to advance Fort Benning's mission. These are individuals, like Sarah McLaney, Fort Benning's Army Community of Excellence coordinator, who has seen the facility receive the Commander in Chief Award under three different commanding generals. Dedicated workers like Sarah have been instrumental not only in achieving Fort Benning's military mission, but also in development of strong ties that bind Fort Benning with the Columbus and Phenix City communities.

General Ernst and his able staff have further reinforced Fort Benning's longstanding commitment to military quality, focusing on the watchwords "First in training, first in readiness, and first in quality of life." Fort Benning soldiers constitute a cornerstone of our Nation's Armed Forces.

Since 1918 Fort Benning has operated the world's foremost military institutional training center. As the home of the infantry, Fort Benning's mission is to produce the world's finest combat-ready infantrymen, to provide the Nation with a power projection platform capable of rapid deployment, and to continue the Army's premier installation and home for soldiers, families, civilian employees, and military retirees. This mission is achieved with distinction on a daily basis.

While the infantry remains the central focus of activity at Fort Benning, a number of other types of units have been added over the years, enhancing the ability of the installation to accomplish its mission.

In addition to being home of the infantry, Fort Benning now houses the Airborne School, the Army Ranger School, the 29th Infantry Regiment, a training unit for the Bradley fighting vehicle, the 36th Engineer Group, and the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Each of these units work tirelessly to defend our national interests around the world and to serve our communities at home.

To the military and civilian personnel of Fort Benning, I offer my sincere

thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO PETER TALÍ COLEMAN, FORMER GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA AND PACIFIC ISLAND LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997 the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Peter Tali Coleman, former Governor of American Samoa and highly regarded Pacific Island leader who passed away on April 28 and was buried last Saturday in Hawaii. He was 77 years of age.

He served as the first popularly elected Governor of American Samoa, was elected again in 1988, and also had the distinction of being Samoa's first and only federally-appointed native-born Governor in the 1950's. His appointment by the Eisenhower administration made him one of the first islanders to serve as the head of a government anywhere in the Pacific, along with Joseph Flores from Guam.

After his appointive term in American Samoa ended, the Governor spent nearly 17 years in the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands where, as the first Pacific Islander to head the governments of what are now the Republic of the Marshall Islands from 1961 to 1965, and now the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, 1965 to 1969, he is believed to be the only Pacific Islander to have headed 3 of the 21 governments of what is now considered the modern insular Pacific. He was also the first U.S. citizen ever to have been awarded an honorary Marshall Island citizenship, an honor accorded to him by a special act of the Nitijela, the Marshalls' Parliament.

During the Nixon administration Governor Coleman was appointed deputy high commissioner of the Trust Territory, the second-ranking position in the central Government of Micronesia. While in Micronesia, he and his wife were the only Americans invited to participate in a private ceremony sponsored by the Japan-based Association of Bereaved Families, in recognition of his efforts to repatriate to Japan the remains of World War II servicemen who died in action on Saipan.

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Upon the resignation of the High Commissioner, Coleman was appointed as his successor in an acting capacity. A widely recognized regionalist, Governor Coleman was active in numerous Pacific organizations throughout his public career. He was a member of either the United States or American Samoa delegations to the South Pacific Conference nine times between 1958 and 1992 and was head of the delegation to the Conference annually between 1980 and 1984, except for 1982

when he both hosted and chaired the conference in Pago Pago.

At a special SPC meeting in Canberra, Australia, in 1983 and later that year at the conference in Saipan, Coleman was a leading voice in the debate which eventually led to equal membership in SPC for Pacific territories. A founding member of the Pacific Basin Development Council, Coleman was also the first territorial Governor to be elected president of that organization in 1982 and served a second term in 1990.

Peter Tali Coleman was born on December 8, 1919, in Pago Pago, American Samoa, where he received his primary education. He graduated from St. Louis High School in Honolulu, joined the National Guard, and then enlisted in the U.S. Army at the outbreak of World War II. Assigned to the Pacific during the war, he was stationed in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in addition to Hawaii, ultimately rising to the rank of captain.

Professionally, as an attorney, he was a member of the bars of the U.S. district court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the U.S. District Court in Hawaii, and the High Courts of American Samoa and the old Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as well as the Supreme Court of the United States. Granted an honorary LL.D. by the University of Guam in 1970 when he was cited as "Man of the Pacific," he also received an honorary doctorate from Chaminade College in Hawaii.

Governor Coleman was a true Pacific hero whose service took him well beyond his native Samoa. He accurately saw himself as a developer of indigenous governments, bringing Pacific islanders to full recognition of their right to self-government and their capacity to implement the same.

Coleman was married to the former Nora K. Stewart of Hawaii, his wife of 55 years. Together they had 13 children, 12 of whom are living, 24 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. We will all miss him, and we all send his family our condolences.

CBO VERSUS OMB: WHO IS RIGHT?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, my point in coming to the well this morning is to talk about CBO and OMB. These are Beltway terms, I know. The Congressional Budget Office is the CBO; and the Office of Management and Budget Office is the OMB. OMB is used by the White House. That is their in-house accounting firm. The CBO is our in-house accounting firm here in Congress. We use it for our budget analysis.

I wish every Member had an opportunity this afternoon to listen to what I have to say because it brings great

bearing on our debate today on the budget and for the remaining 2 or 3 months. In March 1996, with only 6 months left in the fiscal year, OMB projected that the deficit for fiscal year 1996 would be \$154 billion. They were wrong, overestimating by almost 44 percent.

Now let us look at CBO. In May 1996, just 4 months remaining in the fiscal year, CBO anticipated the budget deficit for the year would be \$144 billion. They too were wrong, overestimating by more than 34 percent. We went from 6 months to 4 months. Now let us go to 1 month and see if these folks are accurate.

With 1 month left in fiscal year 1996, both CBO and OMB estimated that the budget deficit for the year would be around \$117 billion. The actual deficit for the year was \$107 billion. Both agencies, despite the short period of anticipation, were off by 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, in other words, neither CBO nor OMB could estimate the budget deficit for the year just 30 days, 30 days, prior to the end of the fiscal year. Yet despite these seemingly inexactitudes, politicians from both sides of the aisle consistently place great credence on these agencies' predictions, often going so far as to base America's entire fiscal policy on their estimates. Sometimes policies are enacted by employing the assumptions from these agencies for as long as the next 5 years in estimating budget data.

Mr. Speaker, if they cannot estimate the budget in 30 days, in 4 months, and in 6 months, how can we expect them to estimate over the next 5 years? CBO and OMB usually disagree sharply on their budget projections, and depending upon which side of an issue one is on, one side is either siding up with OMB or CBO.

In general, CBO is more pessimistic, OMB is more optimistic. Thus, siding with the CBO makes balancing the budget a more daunting task. Despite all of this, both agencies, as I am going to show, are typically wrong altogether. That is, they both err on the same side of the budget. Recently, both agencies have been too pessimistic, consistently overestimating the actual deficit. In the 1980's and in the 1990's, both agencies consistently underestimated the deficit.

Let us now go to the budget agreement that has been recently in the news. When viewed as part of the big picture, the two estimates are essentially identical. For fiscal year 2002, for example, the difference in deficit predictions was \$52 billion. But given the odds that both will be off by about \$300 billion, you know, it is really almost meaningless to talk about what they are projecting in 5 years.

Furthermore, the agencies' forecasts for the size of the national economy in the year 2002 are almost identical at 10.00, a trillion, for CBO, 10.087 trillion for OMB. To be blunt, Mr. Speaker, any discussion about who is right and who is wrong just does not make any sense

given the magnitude of these figures especially when we are talking about a budget projection 5 years from now.

More interestingly than who is closer to right is often the fact that both of them have been essentially wrong and cannot even predict the budget within 30 days. It must be noted that a study of the two agencies' predictions over the last 20 years shows CBO to be closer to right more than OMB. So, perhaps CBO is the one we should follow, although I question that. Fortunately, CBO conducted a large majority of the study, so they had a higher percentage of opportunities to prove they were right.

So, Mr. Speaker, what is the point of all this, what is the lesson to be learned when we look at CBO and OMB and ask them to project out over 5 years? Well, both agencies are quick to point out that the differences between themselves are insignificant and are not good indication of future performance. And I do not know if past performance is a good indication of future performance.

The only certainty that we have this afternoon is that neither one will be absolutely right, and we as Members of Congress should not put a great deal of emphasis on these individual agencies because they both have been wrong. Let me conclude by saying economics is not an exact science and we have to rely on all of us to work together continually to reach a balanced budget and that is the only way we know to reduce the deficit.

NATIONAL HOME OWNERSHIP WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon on a particularly happy occasion. I am pleased to see my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], from the other side of the aisle here as well, because I think we come to talk virtually in unison about the same subject. We have just come from a press conference involving Democrats and Republicans to kick off National Home Ownership Week.

I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] for deciding to do so with a wonderful initiative here in the District.

The idea, let me be quick to say, is the idea of Representative JERRY LEWIS, who has come forward with an idea that is likely to win favor throughout the country and to be copied throughout the country. Instead of just celebrating National Home Ownership Week with a lot of rhetoric on the floor, true to form, Representative LEWIS would have us do something to indicate our commitment, our continuing commitment, to the proposition